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Australia's unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 5.4 per cent in October 2010

The Australian unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 5.4 per cent in October, the Australian Bureau of Statistics announced today.

The ABS reported the number of people employed increased by 29,700 people to 11.356 million, seasonally adjusted, in October. The rise in employment was driven by an increase in part-time employment, up 43,800 people to 3.385 million, that was partially offset by a decrease in full-time employment, down 14,100 people to 7.971 million.

The number of people unemployed increased by 32,100 people, to 646,500 in October, the ABS said.

The ABS seasonally adjusted monthly aggregate hours worked series showed a rise in October, up 7.9 million hours to 1,602.6 million hours.

The ABS reported a record high for the labour force participation in October of 65.9 per cent, a rise of 0.3 percentage points from September.

More details are available in the October 2010 release of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) available for free download from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>

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